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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5576
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES PRIORITY
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 000438

SIPDIS

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PASS TO USTR (D.VETTER)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/17/2017
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [EU](#) [PO](#)
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL WILL NOT SUPPORT EC PROPOSAL TO LIFT
HUNGARY'S BAN ON MON810

REF: STATE 19266

Classified By: Classified by Pol/Econ Officer Inga Heemink for reasons
1.4(b) and (d)

11. (C) A contact at Monsanto informed FAS Madrid late on Friday that Portugal's Environment Secretary of State, Humberto Rosa, who was originally going to abstain from the February 20 vote, now intends to vote to maintain Hungary's ban. We believe this decision goes against the advice of his technicians. Despite our conversation earlier in the day in which Pol-Econ officer urged Portugal to support the EC proposal to lift Hungary's ban on MON810 maize, this last minute decision was unexpected considering Portugal's general openness regarding transgenic crops.
Hoffman